

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 ACDA-19

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 SSO-00 /161 W

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P 201320Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5282

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

:AMEMBASSY TUNIS 1155

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13327

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XF, UR

SUBJ: PLO DELEGATION VISITS MOSCOW

REF: BEIRUT 13172

1. PLO DELEGATION HEADED BY 'ARAFAT AND INCLUDING ZOHAYR MUHSEN (SA'IQA), AHMED YAMANI (PFLP), NAYEF HAWATMEH (PDFLP), 'ABD AL WAHAB KAYYALI (ALF), FAROUQ QADDUMI (FATAH) AND MUHAMMAD SALIH (FATAH) APPARENTLY DEPARTED FOR MOSCOW
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NOV 19 FOR WHAT REPORTEDLY WILL BE 3-4 DAYS OF TALKS

WITH SOV OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BORIS PONOMAREV AND POSSIBLY KOSYGIN OR BREZHNEV. MAIN SUBJECTS WHICH FEDAYEEN EXPECT TO DISCUSS, ACCORDING TO INFORMED OBSERVERS HERE, ARE (A) FEDAYEEN PARTICIPATION IN FORTHCOMING ME PEACE CONFERENCE AND GUARANTEES SOVS MAY BE PREPARED TO OFFER TO FACILITATE SUCH PARTICIPATION; (B) SOV INTERPRETATION OF PALESTINIAN "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS"; AND (C) GENERAL QUESTION OF SOV SUPPORT FOR FEDAYEEN DURING AND AFTER PEACE TALKS. OTHER ISSUES WHICH REPORTEDLY WILL BE EXAMINED IN MOSCOW ARE ESTABLISHMENT BY PLO OF PROVISIONAL PALESTINIAN GOVT-IN-EXILE AND RESULTS OF 'ARAFAT'S RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH ARAB GOVTS. ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR, JOINT FEDAYEEN-SOV COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF MOSCOW TALKS IS EXPECTED CONTAIN SIGNIFICANT NEW EXPRESSION OF SOV SUPPORT FOR FEDAYEEN.

2. COMMENT: A. LEBANESE SECURITY OFFICIALS AND OTHER SOURCES CLOSE TO FEDAYEEN TELL US THAT PLO DID IN FACT DEPART FOR MOSCOW EVENING NOV. 19. FROM WHAT WE ARE TOLD BY RELIABLE PALESTINIAN, DIPLOMATIC AND GOL SOURCES, DECISION TO MAKE MOSCOW TRIP MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY FEAR ON PART OF FEDAYEEN LEADERS THAT THEY WILL FARE BADLY AT UPCOMING ALGIERS SUMMIT AND PEACE TALKS. BASIC ELEMENTS BEHIND FEAR SEEM TO BE: (A) RECENT JORDANIAN DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE WITH ARAB GOVTS; (B) REPORTED LACK OF USG SYMPATHY FOR PLO IN CONTACTS WITH ARAB GOVTS; (C) UNYIELDING POSITION OF ISRAEL; (D) SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS ATTITUDE OF SEVERAL ARAB GOVTS (E.G., EGYPT) COMPARED TO EARLIER SUPPORT FOR PLO; AND (E) CONCERN OVER WHAT REALLY LIES BENEATH SURFACE OF USSR PROTESTATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR PLO. THIS FEAR SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP PULL ITSELF TOGETHER, AND IT NOTE-WORTHY THAT DEL TO MOSCOW INCLUDES REPS FROM PFLP AND ALF WHO PREVIOUSLY REFUSED GO, AS WELL AS FROM WISHY-WASHY PDFLP. AT SAME TIME, EMPHASIS OF TRIP SEEMS TO HAVE SHIFTED FROM PINNING DOWN DETAILS ON PLO PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS WITH SOV SUPPORT TO TRYING PIN DOWN USSR ON JUST HOW MUCH SUPPORT IT PREPARED GIVE PLO.

B. IN ORDER GAIN BROADER DEGREE OF SUPPORT FROM USSR AND ARAB GOVTS, PLO MIGHT CREATE GOVT-IN-EXILE, WHICH WOULD REPRESENT PALESTINIANS AT PEACE TALKS INSTEAD OF PLO. SUCH GOVT WOULD PRESUMABLY EMERGE AT ALGIERS CONFERENCE AND INCLUDE

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VARIOUS PERSONALITIES FROM WESTBANK, GAZA AND ELSEWHERE WHO NOT DIRECTLY AFFILIATED WITH PLO OR FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT. THIS WOULD REDUCE POWER OF PLO BUT WOULD AT LEAST GUARANTEE ITS LEADERS A PROMINENT ROLE IN FUTURE EVOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND STATE.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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